

ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR HAVING A SOLE STRUCTURE WITHADJUSTABLE CHARACTERISTICS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

- JK
1/3/05
- This application is a divisional of U.S. application No. 10/339,011 Filed Jan 8, 2003 still pending.
- [01] The present invention relates to the field of footwear. The invention concerns, more particularly, a footwear sole structure with interchangeable inserts that modify characteristics of the sole structure.

Description of Background Art

- [02] Conventional articles of athletic footwear include an upper and a sole structure that are specifically designed for use in particular athletic activities. Running shoes, for example, incorporate a lightweight upper that provides the foot with ventilation, thereby decreasing the overall weight of the footwear and removing perspiration from the area surrounding the foot. Sole structures for running shoes are generally designed to provide a high degree of cushioning, which includes ground reaction force attenuation and energy absorption, and may incorporate motion control components for reducing the inward roll of the foot following footstrike. Basketball shoes generally incorporate an upper that protects the ankle from sprains and a sole that provides stability during the commonly executed lunges and quick direction changes. Finally, the sole structures for soccer shoes and football shoes may incorporate spikes that provide a high degree of traction on natural turf playing fields.
- [03] Despite the differences between the various footwear styles, sole structures for conventional footwear generally include multiple layers that are referred to as an insole, a midsole, and an outsole. The insole is a thin, cushioning member located adjacent to the